



NEWS RELEASE

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION OF ENERGY RESOURCES

Mitt Romney
Governor

Kerry Healey
Lt. Governor

**70 FRANKLIN STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02110-1313
(617) 727-4732 PHONE/(617) 727-0030 FAX**

Beth Lindstrom
Director of Consumer Affairs

David L. O'Connor
Commissioner

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 28, 2003**

**CONTACT: Karin Pisiewski
(617) 727-4732, ext. 134**

State Energy Commissioner Named to Working Groups for International Taskforce Investigating August 14th Power Outages

MASSACHUSETTS – David O'Connor, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Division of Energy Resources (DOER), has been named by U.S. Dept of Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham, to the US-Canada Joint Task Force on the Power Outage. O'Connor will serve as a member of both the Electric System and Nuclear Power Working Groups.

The Working Groups will provide the investigating team of the Taskforce with critical information on the causes of and potential solutions for preventing a reoccurrence of the power outages that struck much of the Northeastern and Midwestern United States and Canada earlier this month, including parts of western Massachusetts.

“Having Massachusetts represented on the Taskforce is a tremendous opportunity for our state,” said Governor Mitt Romney. “Ensuring the regional reliability of our electric system is paramount. I applaud the Bush Administration for recognizing the need to include state officials in the process.”

Director of Consumer Affairs Beth Lindstrom also praised Commissioner O'Connor's appointment. “Commissioner O'Connor has a wealth of experience in developing

-more-

energy policy and advocating cooperative solutions to energy issues.”

Commissioner O’Connor welcomed the opportunity to serve on the Working Groups, stating “Even though Massachusetts and New England were largely spared from prolonged outages, we cannot be complacent or over-confident about the impact of this event. The issues to be addressed by this Taskforce will have significant ramifications for the entire country and I am proud to be a part of this effort”

David O’Connor, who has served as DOER Commissioner since 1995, advises the Governor, the Director of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation, and Secretary for Commonwealth Development Douglas Foy on policies that will produce reliable, affordable and sustainable energy supplies and uses.

-###-